Notes: Imagery

What is it?

• Imagery, also known as sensory language, uses words or phrases that appeal to the five senses.
  • Sight
  • Sound
  • Smell
  • Taste
  • Touch
• The words help the reader to be able to see in their minds a more accurate and descriptive picture of what the author is describing

Going into more detail:

Sight

stuff you can see

“The light glitters in her eyes.”
Sound
stuff you can *hear*

“We heard *quick, high-pitched squeals.*”

Smell
stuff you can *sniff*

“A *powdered sweetness* filled the *air.*”

Taste
stuff you can *taste*

“She felt the *moist crumbles* *melt* on her *tongue.*”
“Rough, jagged stones cut into his hands.”

But it’s not all imagery:

Just because you can “see it in your mind” does not mean it is imagery.

- Sometimes it doesn’t describe.
- Sometimes it is just plot (action).

“He threw the ball.”

This is plot, not imagery.

Sure, you can “see” someone throwing a ball, but it is an action in the story and is not meant to give the reader a more real or descriptive sense of things.

“He threw the ball, which was crusty and worn.”

Now that’s imagery!

It gives us more visual details about what the ball looked like.
Sure, you can “hear” her sighing and saying “blah,” but it is simply action, dialogue. 

Now that’s imagery!
It gives us more details about what the sigh sounded like.

Examples:

• He turned on the soft, glowing light.
• She screamed a loud cry that echoed through the streets.
• He gave her flowers that smelled of an old, damp envelope.
• She ate sweet, creamy, melted chocolate.
• He patted her back roughly, causing her to feel uneasy.

Imagery can do so much more!

• Imagery can be used to create mood or bring out emotions.

He turned on the _______ light.
How does each light *feel*?

**Examples:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>soft, glowing reading</th>
<th>harsh, bright white</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>He heard a voice <strong>floating</strong> on a breeze. She felt her <strong>soft</strong> shirt against her <strong>skin</strong>. The sun shined <strong>golden</strong> on the <strong>clouds</strong>.</td>
<td>He heard a voice <strong>screech</strong> like <strong>static</strong>. She felt her shirt <strong>scratch</strong> at her <strong>skin</strong>. The sun shined like <strong>knives</strong> in his eyes.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Notes: Imagery

What is it?

• Imagery, also known as ______________ language, uses _________ or phrases that ________________ to the five ________________.
  • ________________
  • ________________
  • ________________
  • ________________
  • ________________

• The words help the reader to be able to __________ in their ______________ a more accurate and ________________ ________________ of what the author is describing

Going into more detail:

Sight

stuff you can _______  “The ______________ ________________ in her eyes.”
Sound

stuff you can ________

“We heard ________, high-______________ ____________.”

Smell

stuff you can ________

“A__________________________________ filled the ______.”

Taste

stuff you can ________

“She felt the __________ crumbles ________ on her ____________.”
Touch

stuff you can ______  “____________, __________ stones _____ into his ________.”

But it’s not all imagery:

Just because you can “______________________________” does not mean it is imagery.

• Sometimes it doesn’t ________________.
• Sometimes it is just ________ (action).

“He threw the ball.”
This is plot, not imagery.

Sure, you can “see” someone throwing a ball, but it is an action in the story and is not meant to give the reader a more real or descriptive sense of things.

“He threw the ball, which was crusty and worn.”

Now that’s imagery!
It gives us more visual ______________ about what the __________ _______________ ________.
Sure, you can “hear” her sighing and saying “blah,” but it is simply action, dialogue.

“‘Blah,’ she sighed, the air passing through her lips like air being let out gently from a balloon.”

Now that’s imagery!
It gives us more ______________ about what the sigh __________________________.

Examples:

• He turned on the _________, __________________ light.
• She screamed a _________ cry that __________________ through the streets.
• He gave her flowers that __________ of an old, _________ envelope.
• She ate ___________, creamy, ___________ chocolate.
• He patted her back ______________, causing her to feel ______________.

Imagery can do so much more!

• Imagery can be used to create ___________ or bring out _________________.

  *He turned on the _______ light.*

  soft, glowing reading          harsh, bright white

How does each light feel?
Examples:

| He heard a voice ___________ on a ______. | He heard a voice ___________ like ______. |
| She felt her _______ shirt against her _______. | She felt her shirt ___________ at her _______. |
| The sun shined ___________ on the _________. | The sun shined like ___________ in his eyes. |